THE
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A TEAM

PITY ALL OTHER SCANS!
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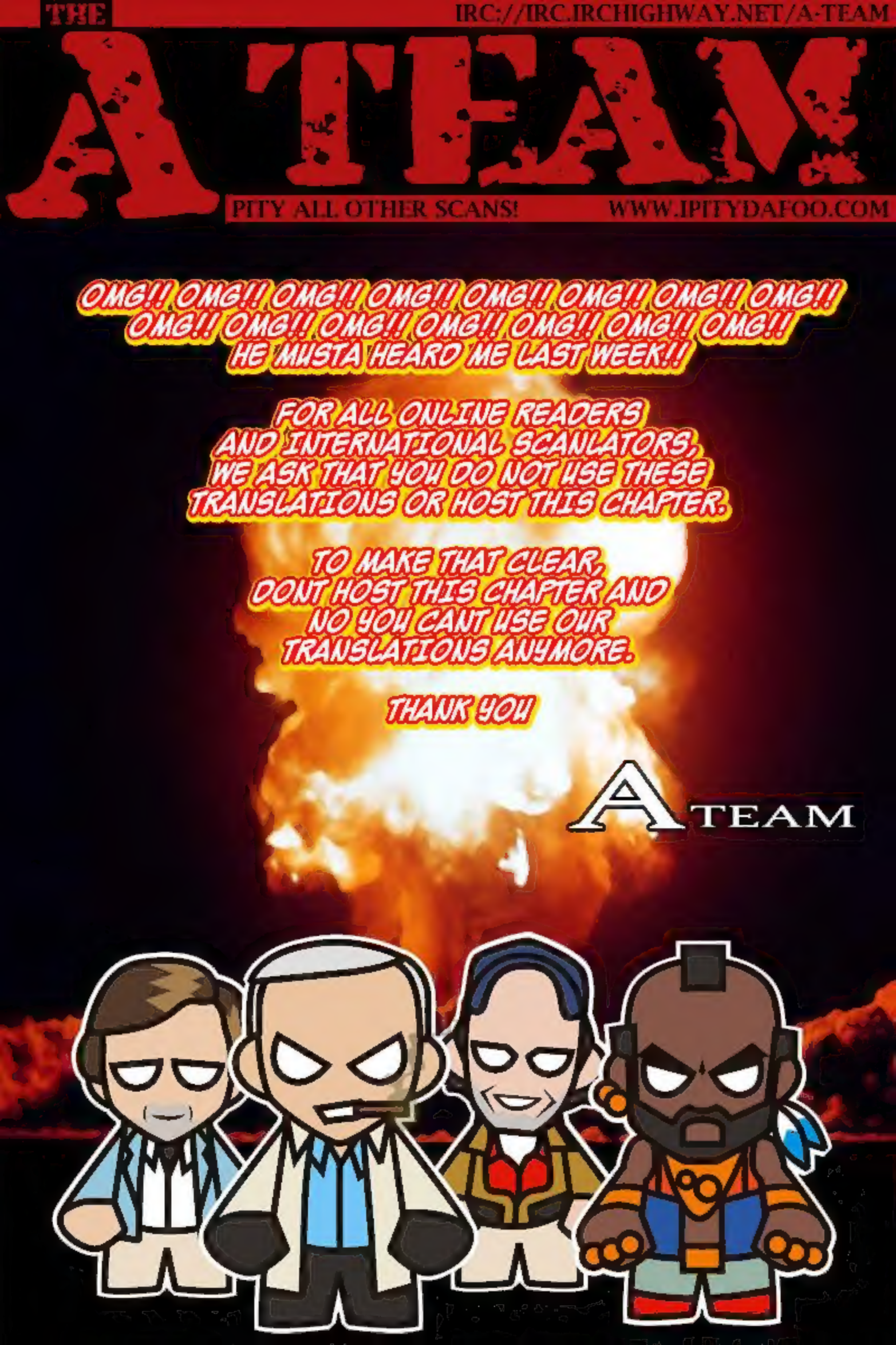
OMG!! OMG!! OMG!! OMG!! OMG!! OMG!! OMG!! OMG!! OMG!!
OMG!! OMG!! OMG!! OMG!! OMG!! OMG!! OMG!! OMG!!
HE MUSTA HEARD ME LAST WEEK!!

FOR ALL ONLINE READERS
AND INTERNATIONAL SCANLATORS,
WE ASK THAT YOU DO NOT USE THESE
TRANSLATIONS OR HOST THIS CHAPTER.

TO MAKE THAT CLEAR,
DONT HOST THIS CHAPTER AND
NO YOU CANT USE OUR
TRANSLATIONS ANYMORE.

THANK YOU

A TEAM



THE MURIM... NO ONE KNOWS FOR SURE WHEN IT FIRST APPEARED.

EXCEPT, MANY TRACE IT'S BEGINNINGS TO THE ASCETICS* FROM A LONG TIME AGO, WHO HAD SECLUDED THEMSELVES DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS OR THE RUGGED WILDERNESS IN ORDER TO SEEK ENLIGHTENMENT.

[*- LIT. *SEEKERS OF TRUTH*; GENERALLY MONKS, HERMITS]

AS THEY MEDITATED IN REMOTE ENVIRONS*, THEY REALIZED THEIR VULNERABILITY TO ATTACKS FROM WILD ANIMALS AND BANDITS, AND BEGAN TO FEEL THE NEED TO PROTECT THEMSELVES.

[*- LIT. THE SURROUNDING AREA OR DISTRICT]

THEY BEGAN TO DEVELOP SELF-DEFENCE METHODS THAT WERE ALIGNED WITH THEIR PRACTICES; IT IS BELIEVED THAT THIS WAS THE EARLIEST FORM OF THE MARTIAL ARTS.

AS THOSE PRACTITIONERS MARTIAL SKILLS AND BRAVERY BECAME WIDELY KNOWN, THEY BEGAN DRAWING IN MORE FOLLOWERS WHO WANTED TO LEARN THEIR MARTIAL ARTS; THIS NATURALLY LED TO THE GATHERING OF INFLUENCE AND POWER.

THE WORD, "MURIM", BEGAN APPEARING AT THIS TIME, LIKENING THE SPREAD OF MARTIAL ("MU") ARTS POWER THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY TO THE GROWTH AND DISPERSAL OF TREES IN A FOREST ("RIM") -- HENCE THE USE OF "MURIM".

HOWEVER, THEIR UNWILLINGNESS TO SUBMIT TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WAS SEEN AS A MAJOR THREAT BY THE ONES IN POWER, AND FOR A LONG TIME THE HISTORY OF THE MURIM WAS FREQUENTLY MARKED BY BATTLES AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT'S REGULAR ARMY.

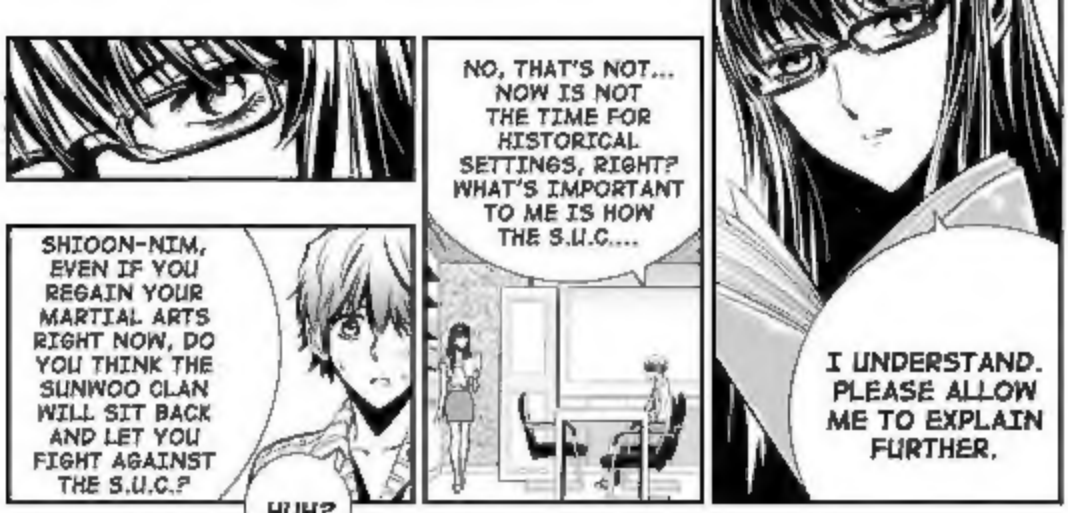
THE LONG HISTORY OF FIGHTING FINALLY CAME TO A SUDDEN END, WITH THE MURIM-IN* MOMENTARILY UNITING, TO TOPPLE THE WEAKENED KINGDOM WITH THEIR IMMENSE STRENGTH.

[*- PERSON/PEOPLE OF THE MURIM]

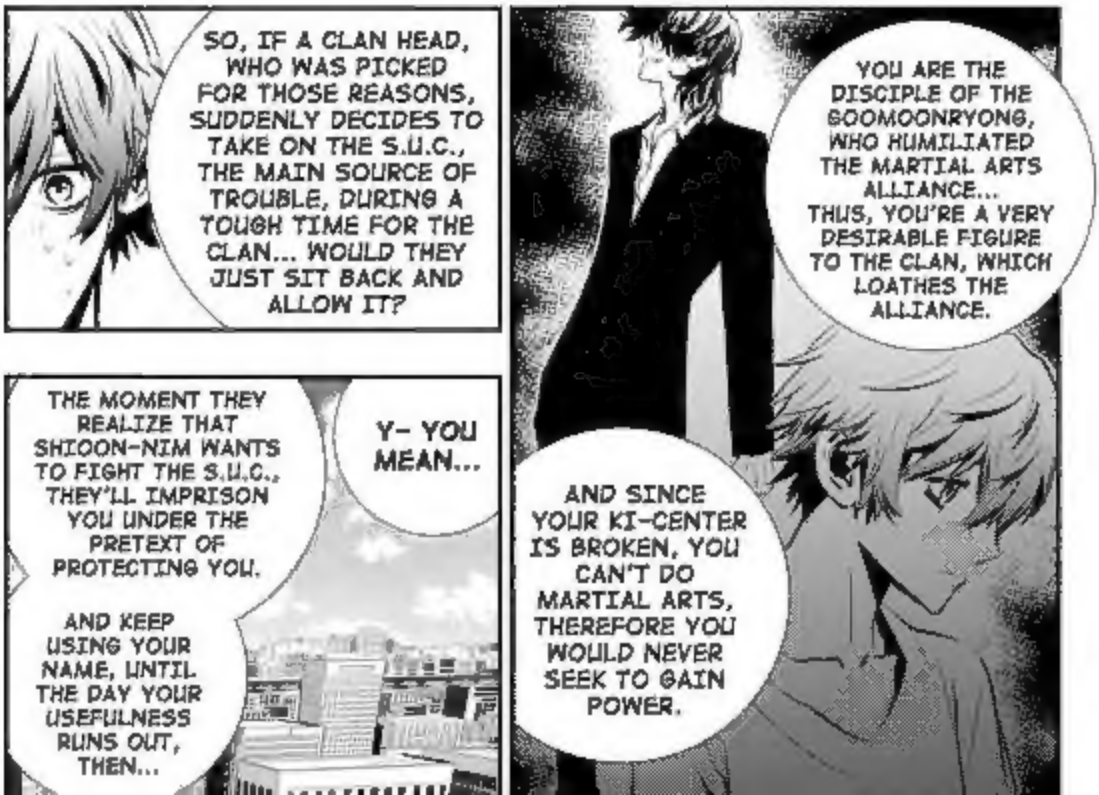
EVERYONE AT THE TIME BELIEVED THAT THE MURIM WORLD WAS HERE TO STAY. HOWEVER, A GREAT DIFFICULTY CONFRONTED THE MURIM-IN WHO HELD POWER.

NAMELY, THE FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE IN VALUES BETWEEN THE MURIM-IN (WHO WERE ASCETICS) AND THE COMMON FOLK. MURIM-IN COULD NOT ASSOCIATE WITH COMMON FOLK, AND IN TURN COMMON FOLK COULD NOT UNDERSTAND MURIM-IN.

THE MURIM-IN DIVESTED THEMSELVES OF AUTHORITY, AS IF IT WERE SOMEONE ELSE'S CLOTHES, AND GAVE IT BACK TO THE COMMON FOLK; IN RETURN, THE COMMON FOLK GUARANTEED THE MURIM'S INDEPENDENCE.
AND THAT IS HOW THE MURIM SLOWLY BEGAN DISAPPEARING FROM THE HISTORY OF THE COMMON FOLK.
UMMM... W- WAIT ONE SECOND!!
THE READERS MAY HAVE THOUGHT THIS WAS A TOTALLY NEW MANHWA.
I WAS WONDERING, JUST WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON ABOVE ME?
I WAS SIMPLY GIVING A COMPREHENSION-FRIENDLY EXPLANATION OF THE MURIM'S SWEEPING HISTORY.
BUT, WITH NO BACKGROUND DRAWINGS... SOMEHOW IT FELT LIKE FILLER PAGES...
TWINGE OF GUILT


NO, THAT'S NOT... NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR HISTORICAL SETTINGS, RIGHT? WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO ME IS HOW THE S.U.C....
I UNDERSTAND. PLEASE ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN FURTHER.
SHIOON-NIM, EVEN IF YOU REGAIN YOUR MARTIAL ARTS RIGHT NOW, DO YOU THINK THE SUNWOO CLAN WILL SIT BACK AND LET YOU FIGHT AGAINST THE S.U.C.?
HUH?

WITHOUT A DOUBT, THE ELDERS OF THE SUNWOO CLAN FIND SHIOON-NIM AN ATTRACTIVE, VALUABLE EXISTENCE.


SO, IF A CLAN HEAD, WHO WAS PICKED FOR THOSE REASONS, SUDDENLY DECIDES TO TAKE ON THE S.U.C., THE MAIN SOURCE OF TROUBLE, DURING A TOUGH TIME FOR THE CLAN... WOULD THEY JUST SIT BACK AND ALLOW IT?
YOU ARE THE DISCIPLE OF THE GOOMOONRYONG, WHO HUMILIATED THE MARTIAL ARTS ALLIANCE... THUS, YOU'RE A VERY DESIRABLE FIGURE TO THE CLAN, WHICH LOATHES THE ALLIANCE.
AND SINCE YOUR KI-CENTER IS BROKEN, YOU CAN'T DO MARTIAL ARTS, THEREFORE YOU WOULD NEVER SEEK TO GAIN POWER.
Y- YOU MEAN...
THE MOMENT THEY REALIZE THAT SHIOON-NIM WANTS TO FIGHT THE S.U.C., THEY'LL IMPRISON YOU UNDER THE PRETEXT OF PROTECTING YOU.
AND KEEP USING YOUR NAME, UNTIL THE DAY YOUR USEFULNESS RUNS OUT, THEN...

SHIOON-NIM DOESN'T USE MARTIAL ARTS... BUT YOU HAVE LOTS OF ENEMIES STILL.
SO, ISN'T IT LOGICAL THAT YOU WOULD END UP CLINGING TO THE CLAN, IF THEY JUST KEEP WATCH OVER YOU?
KIII~
YOU'LL END UP LIKE THIS ONE DAY.
SHOCK
I- IMPOSSIBLE. THEN WHY WOULD JINIE GO SO FAR AS TO...
I'VE NEVER ONCE THOUGHT OF IT THAT WAY.
SO... DO YOU STILL BELIEVE THAT THE SUNWOO CLAN IS ON YOUR SIDE?
!
BUT... THIS DOES EXPLAIN WHY THEY WANTED ME TO BECOME THE CLAN HEAD.

FINE. I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.
BUT THEN YOU COULD APPLY THE SAME LOGIC TO OUR SITUATION.
YOU COULD SAY THAT YOU'RE ALSO TRYING TO USE ME SOMEHOW, JUST LIKE THE SUNWOO CLAN, RIGHT?
MUMBLE
I THOUGHT HE WAS AN IDIOT, BUT HE'S PRETTY SMART...
HUH? WHAT DID YOU JUST ...?
THAT IS CORRECT. YOU MAY SAY THAT I AM ALSO USING YOU, SHIOON-NIM.

IF THOSE ARE THE RULES OF THE GAME, THEN WHAT YOU NEED TO DO IS TO JUDGE THIS SITUATION CAREFULLY, AND DECIDE WHAT COURSE OF ACTION WOULD BE BENEFICIAL; ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
AND THAT APPLIES TO THE ENTIRE MURIM, NO MATTER WHO IT IS.
BECAUSE EVEN THOUGH THEY MAY SPEAK OF JUSTICE, THEY ACT ONLY WHEN THERE IS SOMETHING TO GAIN.
AND THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT I WANTED YOU TO LEARN FROM YOUR STUDIES, SHIOON-NIM.
AND IN THE AFTERNOONS, WE'LL HAVE MARTIAL ARTS CLASS TOGETHER, AS WELL.
HUH?
YES. I'LL DO MY BEST.
NOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHY THIS IS SO IMPORTANT?
.....

HM... JUST AS I EXPECTED.
?
WELL...
DOES THAT MEAN YOU'VE FOUND A WAY TO FIX MY KI-CENTER?
CHIME
WHAT...? A SPONSOR?
IT LOOKS LIKE DOCTOR BAE HAS MADE CONTACT WITH HIS SPONSOR.
YES. A PERSON WHO MAY BE THE DECIDING FACTOR IN TREATING YOUR BROKEN KI-CENTER.
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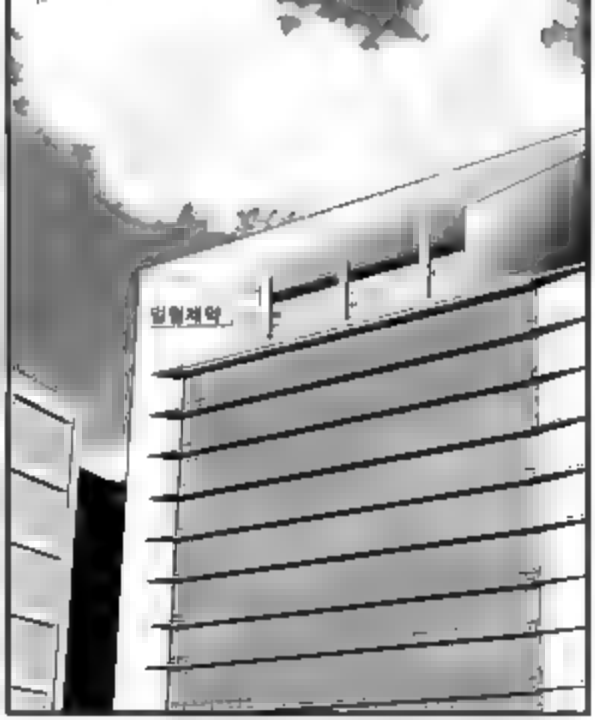
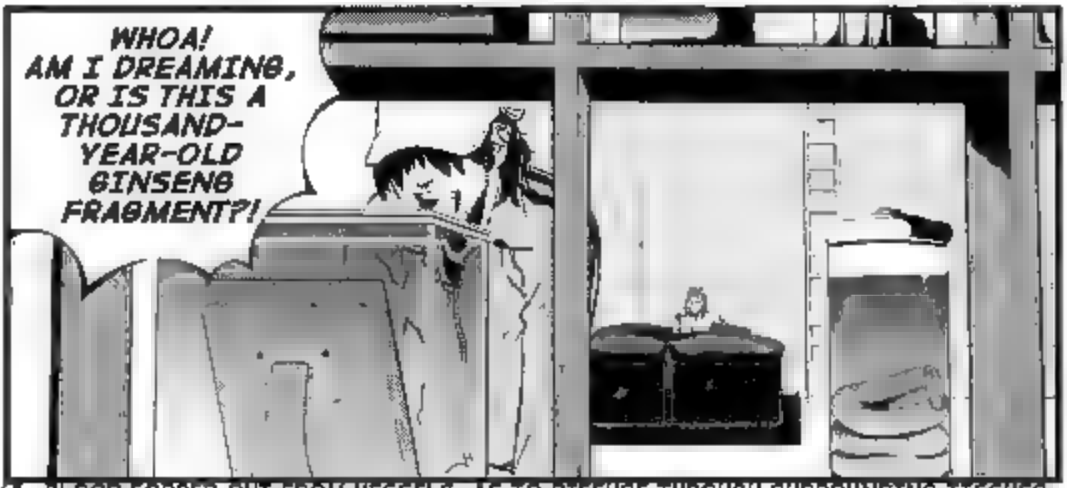


SIGN: IL-WOL PHARMACEUTICAL

KER-THUNK
WHO DID YOU SAY IT WAS?



[*- BLOOD FORCED OUT FROM VESSELS, AS TO DIFFUSE THROUGH SURROUNDING TISSUES, MAY CONTAIN COAGULATES, WASTE, ETC.]

WHAT IS THIS BLOOD, WITH SO MUCH EXTRAVASATE*? IT'S WORSE THAN SOME BLOOD FROM A CAT THAT GOT RUN OVER.
THUMP
HOW DISAPPOINTING FROM YOUR REPUTATION, I THOUGHT YOU'D BRING ME SOMETHING SPECIAL.

FIRST OF ALL, CAN'T YOU FEEL THE ENORMOUS KI? YOU MUST DO A THOROUGH EXAMINATION OF THIS.
I BET YOU'LL BE SHOCKED
NOW, NOW, THAT'S HARDLY WHAT I EXPECT FROM HUH WON-JAE, THE GREAT IL-WOL MUNJU"
YOU KNOW THAT THE EXTRAVASATED BLOOD CAN BE SIMPLY PURIFIED IN THE CEN-TRIFUGATION PROCESS.

[* "IL-WOL" = SUN AND MOON, "MUNJU" = MARTIAL ARTS SCHOOL HEAD]

UM .. ACTUALLY I WANTED TO MAKE A REQUEST INSTEAD OF THE MONEY, IF THAT'S OK.
IF YOU'RE HAPPY WITH IT, I'D LIKE YOU TO LEAVE I'M PRESSED FOR TIME.
OH... WAIT! WAIT!
FINE, TAKE IT I'LL TRUST THE GENIUS DOCTOR BAE SEUNG-JAE, AND PAY UP.
WHOA. THIS IS TOO MUCH.

I NEED TO MAKE SOME MEDICINE AND IN THIS COUNTRY, ONLY THE IL-WOL SCHOOL HAS AN ALCHEMIC ROOM THAT'S BIG ENOUGH FOR MY NEEDS.
WHY THE ALCHEMIC ROOM?
I WONDER, COULD I BORROW THE IL-WOL SCHOOL'S ALCHEMIC ROOM*?

[*- "YEON-DAN-SHIL", YEON-DAN COULD MEAN STRENGTHENING MEDICINE, OR A FORM OF ALCHEMY FROM ANCIENT CHINA.]

I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I? I NEED A BIG ENOUGH ROOM TO MAKE A STRENGTHENING MEDICINE OF VERY HIGH CONCENTRATION.
HEY! IF IT'S AN ALCHEMIC ROOM YOU WANT, YOU COULD SET ONE UP WITH ALL THAT MONEY!
.....
WHY ARE YOU SO STUCK ON OUR SCHOOL'S ROOM?

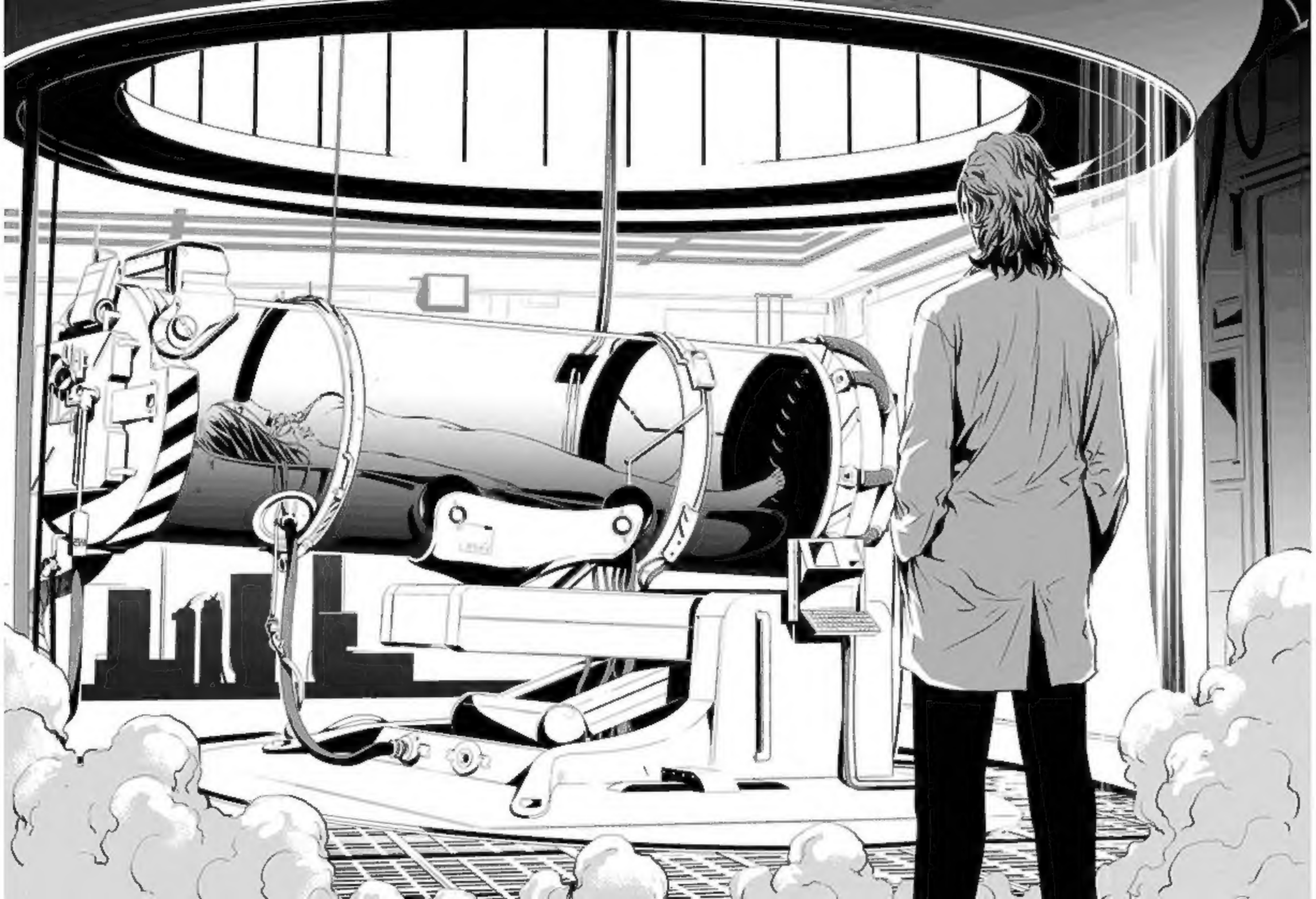
THAT IS CORRECT.
SO, ARE YOU SAYING YOU HAVE SOMEONE SPECIFIC TO TREAT?

BOW
OH, THANK YOU VERY MUCH
FINE. I'LL LEND YOU THE 4TH ALCHEMIC ROOM.
BUT WE SET THE TIME, AND YOU CAN ONLY ACCESS IT THEN AND DON'T WONDER AROUND ELSEWHERE.

FROM ALL THESE INGREDIENTS, IT FEELS LIKE YOU MIGHT BRING SOMEONE BACK FROM THE DEAD.
!
ALL THESE AMAZING INGREDIENTS HERE - WHAT ARE YOU MAKING, THAT YOU'D NEED THEM?
IT'S NOT AN IL-WOL SHIN-DAN. FROM THE INGREDIENTS...
Y'KNOW.... MAY I ASK YOU SOMETHING?

AREN'T YOU BEING A BIT TOO NOSY? OR DO YOU WANT ME TO RECONSIDER LENDING YOU OUR ALCHEMIC ROOM?
WELL, THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME. PLEASE CONTACT ME AGAIN IF YOU LIKE MY PRODUCTS.
!
NO, NO! THAT'S NOT IT. I WAS JUST WONDERING IF I COULD HELP YOU, THAT'S ALL!
STAND
SHUT

TRUDGE
TRUDGE
WHIIIIR
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
1 2 3
4 5 6
ZIIING
PSHHHHHH
I TOLD YOU...
THAT I'D FIND YOU, NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO.



I'LL GO AND FIND YOU, ONCE AGAIN...
EVEN IF IT WAS IN THE AFTERLIFE ...!